

received an award for student achievement from the Alachua County School Board. Furthermore, this is the second consecutive year that Alachua Elementary School has come in first in the state in the National Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl.

Shirley Tanner has coached both of Alachua Elementary School's champion National Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl teams. She also makes time to teach enrichment classes and instructs students and teachers about technology resources. She is certainly a beloved and devoted teacher who prefers to keep the focus on her students' accomplishments rather than her own.

Mrs. Tanner initiated the school's involvement in the challenging competition several years ago. The test consists of 100 computer-generated multiple-choice questions covering a wide range of school subjects, current events and trivia. Each of the fifth-grade students on the quiz bowl team worked incredibly hard to win this competition. Students who qualified for the team already had a wide range of general knowledge, but still had to prepare for the competition. They divided up topics in various academic disciplines and each student became an expert in one or more fields. They studied for a minimum of an extra hour every day, as well as practicing team-work, test-taking strategies and speed. Mrs. Tanner says this approach is the best strategy to take when preparing students for a competition in which they have no idea which questions will be asked of them. They simply need to be quick minded, calm under pressure and knowledgeable about many subjects. She said the six students on this year's team were all of these things and even worked hard enough on their regular school work to make the Honor Roll. We are very proud of them.

Now let me tell you a little bit more about these wonderful kids.

Sam Hart, who also won the spelling bee at Alachua Elementary School this year, focused on spelling. He also concentrated on sports and children's literature. Sam is a quiet, intelligent student who Mrs. Tanner described as "highly respected and popular with both teachers and peers."

Ryan McCoy is the second member of his family to participate in the quiz bowl. His older brother Evan McCoy was also on the school's quiz bowl team. Ryan concentrated on sports for the competition as well as measurements and Roman numerals.

Ashley Nelson, a straight-A student who took sixth grade math this year, specialized in math and measurement. On test day, Ashley was the team member chosen to enter the team's answers using the computer keyboard or mouse pointer. Ashley performed this stressful task "flawlessly" according to Mrs. Tanner. She input the team answers quickly and accurately. She also demonstrated her fine grasp of math concepts and computation by correctly answering all the math questions without even using a pencil or paper.

Paloma Paredes, another straight-A student, learned time zones and geometry for the competition. Mrs. Tanner described Paloma as an incredibly conscientious and hard-working student. Paloma studies every chance she gets.

Megan Raulerson, also a straight-A student, was the team's language arts expert. In addition to her schoolwork and Quiz Bowl participation, Megan routinely appears on the school's closed circuit live video news broadcasts. Both Megan and fellow Quiz Bowl teammate, Justin Sturm, frequently fill in when a scheduled anchorperson fails to show up. This means they don't even have the opportunity to read the script until a few minutes before broadcast time. A tough job, but they do it wonderfully.

Mrs. Tanner says that Justin Sturm "wants to know everything about everything." She says Justin excels in science and is an avid reader and an enthusiastic learner.

I would also like to recognize last year's quiz bowl winners: Keely Duff, Tyler Mikell, Elizabeth Keller, Katey Sands and Sara Wooding for their achievements. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring all of these exceptional students.

IN HONOR OF THE SNOHOMISH  
COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we spend countless hours in this chamber discussing issues related to juvenile crime, and we all agree that we must do more than merely punish juvenile criminals—we must develop programs in our communities to keep our youth from becoming criminals in the first place. I rise today to pay special tribute to some wonderful individuals from the Snohomish County Prosecutor's office that are helping our young people to become healthy, productive, law-abiding citizens. These volunteers, in collaboration with local schoolteachers, conduct the Courtrooms to Classrooms program.

This innovative program, funded through a federal grant, provides young students an opportunity to learn nonviolent problem solving techniques and avoid self-destructive behaviors. Initiated by Prosecuting Attorney James Krider and adapted by Lynn Mattson-Eul, the Courtrooms to Classrooms's curriculum allows students to: bound with positive role models, appreciate how laws influence their daily lives, learn about our justice system, and explore new career options from local prosecuting attorneys. The Courtrooms to Classroom program assists students in understanding the individual responsibilities one has as a member of society, and developing analytical skills when making routine and serious decisions. One of the highlights of the program is the mock trial of the storybook character "Goldilocks." It is obvious that the important lessons these young people take away from the Courtrooms to Classrooms program will stay with them the rest of their lives.

I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in thanking the following individuals for taking the time to improve this country by participating in the lives of our children.

Those individuals are: Kathy Jo Kristof, Scott Lord, Becky Quirk, Walt Sowa, Charlie Blackman, Julie Twito, Jim Townsend, Paul Stern, Mara Rozzano, Aaron Shields, Jason

Cummings, Tom Curtis, Chris Dickinson, Colleen St. Clair, Dave Kurtz, Randy Yates, Dave Thiele, Patricia Lyon, Seth Fine, Steven Bladek, Michael Held, John Swanson, Serena Hart, Kerri Oseguera, Sandra Walters, Marie Turk, Ted Mueser, Mark Roe, Craig Matheson, Lisa Paul, Remy Leonard, Barbara Finnie, Matt Hunter, John Stansell, Kathy Patterson, Craig Bray, Cindy Larsen, Erica Temple, Hal Hupp, Ed Stemier, George Appel, Karen Jorgensen-Peters, Lisa Hanna, Linda Scoccia, Tim Geraghty, Sherry King, Karen Moore, Dave Wold, Diane Kremenich, Susan Lewis, Debbie Cicardini, Karen Kahmann, Diana Kinnebrew, Patricia Bear, Tricia Bryant, Anna Clark, Chery Park, Amy Matthiesen, and Cheri Wantola.

FORCED CHILD LABOR IN CHINA

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest condolences to the families of the 42 individuals—including 37 young school children—who died in a horrible explosion in China on March 6 of this year. This tragedy resulted from a situation of forced child labor in which the deceased third- and fourth-graders were required to spend long hours during the school day making firecrackers. Along with 16 cosponsors, today I am introducing a bipartisan resolution that expresses condolences to the families of the deceased and expresses support for international trade agreements that will enforce the International Labor Organization's core labor standards, which include prohibition of child labor and forced labor.

For years, the parents of children in the Fanglin elementary school, which is in a small village 40 miles southwest of Shanghai, had complained that their children were being forced by school officials to manufacture large firecrackers at school. Every day, the young children were required to spend hours mounting fuses and detonators into the firecrackers that were then sold by local officials. To ensure that their monetary intake remained high, the officials set a sliding production quota that started at 1,000 firecrackers per day for the youngest children and reached 10,000 firecrackers per day for the fifth-graders.

It was only a matter of time before this disturbing example of forced and dangerous child labor would end in tragedy. On a Tuesday afternoon, the firecrackers exploded in the elementary school and took the lives of the 37 young children.

Chinese Prime Minister Zhu immediately denied the use of forced child labor, and Communist Party officials invented a story about a "mad man" who entered the school and set off the explosion as part of his suicide attempt. However, thanks to the courageous and persistent reporting of both Chinese and international journalists, Prime Minister Zhu was eventually forced to acknowledge the true events of March 6.

The forced labor and child labor in China violates several conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO), but unfortunately the ILO has no enforcement powers. I